



# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994  
133 S. Fitzhugh St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Nolte House  
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---  
3. STREET LOCATION: 151 Dorsey Road (just west of Tait Ave.)  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒  
5. PRESENT OWNER: Francine Cruikshank ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14616  
6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☒ other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof is asphalt shingles. Foundation not visible.  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☒  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is a great, 'fun,' house - it is really remarkable. Note the arcade. The argument for this house is that the man who designed it put more love and attention into this than is seen in the many generic, out-of-the-catalog Neo-Colonial houses that we see. This is a very personal kind of statement. I'm sure that hardly anyone would pass this house without reacting to it in some way and that says a lot about the design, as it speaks to people. I would make the case that this is a kind of poetic statement. It may be naive, but there's more involvement with this, a kind of personal artistic involvement that you don't see with other generic homes." P.Malo

COLOR CODE



Red minus



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: mature deciduous trees & coniferous shrubs  
j. other: concrete garden fountain (front lawn)
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐  
c. scattered buildings ☐  
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒  
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1924-1930
- ARCHITECT: probably Emil F. Nolte
- BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: residential

11c.

Original porte cochere (the drive-through to the garage at the rear of property) at the northeast corner of the house has been enclosed and converted to garage use. A contemporary overhead door, 1/1 windows and synthetic siding have been added.

Two-story wing with fire escape at the southwest corner of the house appears to be a later addition. It may have been constructed in the early 1940s when the house was converted to two units. The synthetic siding is contemporary.

Two contemporary, 3-panel picture windows have been added to rear of the the east elevation.

In the back yard, the garage doors on the facade of the original garage have been replaced with windows and a hinged door.

17. This house is located on the south side of Dorsey Road, just west of Tait Avenue in the northeast quadrant of the town. The driveway is located to the immediate north of the house; it originally extended under the porte cochere to the original garage in the backyard. An early 20th-century, contributing stucco garage is behind the house to the south. The surrounding neighborhood consists of primarily post-World War II Cape Cod and some Colonial Revival houses.

18. A c. 1924-30, cross-gabled, two-story frame house with stucco and brick veneer. Fenestration is asymmetrical and consists of 1/1, double-hung windows with brick sills; two-sash, diamond-paned windows are located on the 2nd story over the original porte cochere. Decorative brick arches with stucco infill and a diamond-shaped, cream-colored ceramic tile top many of the exterior windows. On the first story of the north and west elevations, groupings of three and five contiguous arches/windows form an arcade.

The exterior is a veneer of brick on the first story; the second story and front parapet gable are stucco. A brick chimney with circular stucco panel is on the west side of the house and includes a decorative wrought iron tie rod. The facade features a number of distinctive details: the arched parapet gable with blue ceramic tile inset and wrought iron peacock finial, a small blue ceramic oval with cameo

18. continued

figure located between the two diamond-paned windows on the second story and, its most prominent detail, the large heart-shaped panel bordered by two rows of bricks and finished with stucco infill. The north and west elevations also include three pairs of decorative cast concrete brackets (under 1st story windows).

The original open porte cochere (drive-through) at the northeast corner of the house has been converted into a garage. A modern garage door, entrance door, windows and synthetic siding have been installed here.

Projecting from the south (rear) of the main block is a two-story, synthetic-sided addition with fire escape. It has contemporary 1/1 windows, hinged exterior door and wood steps. This may date from the early 1940s, when the house was converted into two units: the owner's apartment and a rental unit.

The contributing garage at the rear of the property has a stucco veneer exterior and decorative arched parapet wall on the north elevation. The original garage door(s) have been removed and contemporary windows and door installed.

20. Built c. 1924-1930, this house is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of early 20th-century Spanish Eclectic domestic architecture in the town. Its appearance, highlighted by its trademark "heart" on the facade, is unique and it has no known counterpart in the community.

Domestic buildings of Spanish precedent built before about 1920 are generally free adaptations in the Mission style. It was not until the Panama-California Exposition, held in San Diego in 1915, that the precise imitation of more elaborate Spanish prototypes received wide attention. Inspired by the wide publicity given the exposition, other fashionable architects soon began to look directly to Spain for source material. Although they referred to this style as "Spanish Colonial," it is now referred to as Spanish Eclectic because of its broad roots. The style reached its apex during the 1920s and early 1930s and passed rapidly from favor during the 1940s.

Spanish Eclectic is most common in the southwestern states, particularly California, Arizona, Texas and in Florida, all

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regions where original Spanish Colonial building occurred and continued into the 19th century. Landmark houses in this style are rare outside of Florida and the Southwest, but scattered vernacular examples are found in suburban developments throughout the country. This house at 151 Dorsey Road is such an example.

There are details characteristic of the Spanish Eclectic that are seen on this house: the stucco exterior walls, the series of brick arches (arcades) on the north and west elevations, the decorative cream and blue ceramic tiles, and the arched parapet gable on both the house and the garage.

There are several decorative details, that, 'though small in scale, add to the unique character of this house. On the front parapet gable is a wrought iron peacock finial, while the north facade (over the former porte cochere) has a blue, ceramic oval with cameo figure inserted into the stucco wall between the windows.

Originally, the house included an open porte cochere. This was the square-arched, open area (at the northeast corner) through which the driveway extended into the back yard. It is now enclosed as a garage and the original main entrance to the house is no longer visible (note: there is no principle front door on the facade of this residence!).

This home's cross-gabled roof design appears in about 40% of Spanish Eclectic houses; the design usually includes a prominent, front-facing gable (such as seen on #151 Dorsey).

A cast concrete garden fountain is located on the front lawn and may be original to the design of the property. The fountain includes a round, scalloped-edged splash basin atop a claw-footed pedestal. A cherub-like child's figure stands on top. The entire fountain rests on a round base/splash basin.

The precise date of construction for this house has not been determined. The 1924 map shows this as an empty lot #65. The south side of Dorsey Road is shown divided into small building lots, but no buildings were yet constructed. The 1930 suburban directory first lists #151 Dorsey Road and its owners, Emil F. and Anna Nolte. Mr. Nolte was a mason. As a mason, he may have been familiar with the popular styles of the time and used his knowledge/experience to design/build

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20. continued

the house.

The Nolte family continued here into the 1940s; the house was divided into two units in 1941 (Mrs. Margaret Schroeder, widow of Benno Schroeder lived in the second unit). By 1946 it was shown as a three-unit residence, but reverted to two apartments in the early 1950s. Mr. Nolte continued to reside here until the early 1960s. The 1959 map shows this area as the "Brookridge A18 subdivision."

The house was subsequently owned by Stanley Nesbit. According to current owner, Francine Cruikshank, Mr. Nesbit's first wife was related to the Nolte family (the home's original owners). Ms. Cruikshank reported that Mr. Nesbit, a maintenance worker at Greece Athena High School, has old photos of this house.

The current owner has converted the three-family house back to a single-family residence.

21. See final report for bibliography; interview with Francine Cruikshank, 1/1995.





